

April 29, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the bill. **Page S2303**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the report on the State of the Union delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on April 28, 2021; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM–8)

Pages S2287–92

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 68 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 174), Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. **Pages S2266–82, S2309**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 67 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 173), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2266**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Meredith Berger, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Gina Maria Ortiz Jones, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Frank Kendall III, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

Caroline Diane Krass, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Michael Lee Connor, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Christopher Paul Maier, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Heidi Shyu, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Mark Colon, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Alejandra Y. Castillo, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

Samuel T. Walsh, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of the Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service.

Rena Bitter, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Consular Affairs).

Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs).

Gentry O. Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Diplomatic Security).

Anne A. Witkowsky, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Conflict and Stabilization Operations).

Anne A. Witkowsky, of Maryland, to be Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization.

Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

Javier M. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Routine lists in the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S2303–09**

Executive Communications: **Page S2292**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2292**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S2294**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S2294**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2286–S2300**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2300–02**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2302**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2302**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—175) **Pages S2266, S2282–84**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:20 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2303.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, after receiving testimony from Katherine Tai, Ambassador, United States Trade Representative.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE COVID RESPONSE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded

a hearing to examine health disparities in Indian Country, focusing on a review of the Indian Health Service's COVID response and future needs, after receiving testimony from Elizabeth Fowler, Acting Director, and Jillian E. Curtis, Chief Financial Officer, both of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: LOC, CBO, GAO

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Library of Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Government Accountability Office, after receiving testimony from Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress; Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office; and Gene Dodaro, United States Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office.

VA TELEHEALTH PROGRAM

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Veterans Affairs telehealth program, focusing on leveraging recent investments to build future capacity, after receiving testimony from Steven L. Lieberman, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health, and Kevin Galpin, Executive Director, Telehealth, both of the Veterans Health Administration, and Jack Galvin, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Development, Security and Operations, Office of Information and Technology, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine United States Special Operations Command's efforts to sustain the readiness of special operations forces and transform the force for future security challenges, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Francis M. Beaudette, USA, Commanding General, United States Army Special Operations Command, Lieutenant General James C. Slife, USAF, Commander, Air Force Special Operations Command, Rear Admiral Hugh W. Howard III, USN, Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, and Major General James F. Glynn, USMC, Commander, United States Marine Corps Special Operations Command, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE ACQUISITION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine defense acquisition programs and acquisi-

tion reform, after receiving testimony from Stacy A. Cummings, performing the duties of Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, and Raymond D. O'Toole, Jr., Acting Director, Operational Test and Evaluation, both of the Department of Defense; and Shelby S. Oakley, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office.

U.S. NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy, after receiving testimony from Brad Roberts, Director, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Department of Energy; General Claude Robert Kehler, USAF (Ret.), former Commander, United States Strategic Command, Department of Defense; Franklin C. Miller, The Scowcroft Group; and Paul Bracken, Yale School of Management.

RENT-A-BANK

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the re-emergence of rent-a-bank, including S.J. Res. 15, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to "National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders", after receiving testimony from Josh Stein, North Carolina Attorney General, Raleigh; Brian P. Brooks, former Acting Comptroller of the Currency, Pueblo, Colorado; Lisa F. Stifler, Center for Responsible Lending, Durham, North Carolina; Frederick D. Haynes, III, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; and Charles W. Calomiris, Columbia University, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 15, to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors;

S. 115, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the travel and tourism industry in the United States, with an amendment;

S. 120, to prevent and respond to the misuse of communications services that facilitates domestic violence and other crimes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 163, to address the workforce needs of the telecommunications industry, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 198, to require the Federal Communications Commission to incorporate data on maternal health outcomes into its broadband health maps;

S. 381, to establish the National Ocean Mapping, Exploration, and Characterization Council, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 558, to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 576, to amend title 14, United States Code, to require the Coast Guard to conduct icebreaking operations in the Great Lakes to minimize commercial disruption in the winter months, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 735, to amend the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 to further support advanced technological manufacturing, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1259, to provide that crib bumpers shall be considered banned hazardous products under section 8 of the Consumer Product Safety Act; and

The nominations of Donet Dominic Graves, Jr., of Ohio, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, and Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

EPA BUDGET

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Michael S. Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Bonnie D. Jenkins, of New York, to be Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security, and Jose W. Fernandez, of New York, to be United States Alternate Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of five years, United States Alternate Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of five years, to be United States Alternate Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and to be an Under Secretary (Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment), both of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, and Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

NGO PERSPECTIVES ON SOUTHWEST BORDER

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Governmental Operations and Border Management concluded a hearing to examine the non-governmental organization perspective on the southwest border, after receiving testimony from Beth Strano, International Rescue Committee, Phoenix, Arizona; Ruben Garcia, Annunciation House, El Paso, Texas; and Joshua P. Jones, Texas Public Policy Foundation, Austin, Texas.

MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, AND COVID-19

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the response to COVID-19, focusing on using lessons learned to address mental health and substance use disorders, after receiving testimony from Jonathan Muther, Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center, Commerce City, Colorado; Tami D. Benton, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Sara Goldsby, South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Columbia; and Andy Keller, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Dallas, Texas.

COVID-19 RESPONSE IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the COVID-19 response in Native communities, focusing on Native education systems one year later, including the need to provide schools with more assistance for distance learning, after receiving testimony from Melissa Emrey-Arras, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Tony L. Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, Department of the Interior; Lance West, Schurz Elementary School, Schurz, Nevada; Kauanoe Kamana, Nawahiokalani'opu'u School, Keaau, Hawaii; and Michelle Thomas, Belcourt School District, Belcourt, North Dakota.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Ketanji

Brown Jackson, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Duckworth, Julien Xavier Neals, and Zahid N. Quraishi, each to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, who were both introduced by Senator Booker, and Regina M. Rodriguez, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, who was introduced by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

GUN VIOLENCE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine stopping gun violence, focusing on extreme risk order/"red flag" laws, after receiving testimony from Kimberly Wyatt, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle, Washington; Joshua Horowitz, Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Washington, D.C.; Vic Bencomo, Giffords Gun Owners for Safety Coalition-Colorado Chapter, and David Kopel, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, both of Denver, Colorado; and Nikki Goesser, Crime Prevention Research Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

VETERANS AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 89, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID-19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, S. 189, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, S. 219, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of certain payments during the emergency period resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, S. 437, to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, S. 444, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, S. 454, to provide health care and benefits to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan, S. 458, to amend title 38, United States Code,

to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide the representative of record of a claimant for compensation or benefits administered by the Secretary an opportunity to review a proposed determination regarding that claim, S. 565, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the treatment of veterans who participated in the clean-up of Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans for purposes of the presumption of service-connection of certain disabilities by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 657, to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, S. 731, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 810, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents for which there is a presumption of service connection for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam to include hypertension, S. 894, to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 927, to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, S. 952, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins, S. 976, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, S. 1031, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 1039, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation for disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War veterans, S. 1071, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide pension claim enhancement assistance to individuals submitting claims for pension from the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1093, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, S. 1095, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, S. 1096,

to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, and S. 1188, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify Congress regularly of reported cases of burn pit exposure by veterans, after receiving testimony from Ronald Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, and Beth Murphy, Executive Director for Compensation Service, both of the Veterans Benefits Administration, Patricia R. Hastings, Chief Consultant for Post Deployment Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, and Paul Brubaker, Deputy Chief Information Offi-

cer for Account Management, Office of Information and Technology, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Shane Liermann, Disabled American Veterans; Aleksandr Morosky, Wounded Warrior Project; Patrick Murray, Veterans of Foreign Wars; John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America; and Candace Wheeler, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 43 public bills, H.R. 2861–2903; 2 private bills, H.R. 2904–2905; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 354–358, were introduced. **Pages H2125–27**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2128–29**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Recess: The House recessed at 6:04 p.m. and reconvened at 8:36 p.m. **Page H2117**

President Biden's Address to the Joint Session of Congress: President Joseph R. Biden delivered a message to a joint session of Congress, pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 30. He was escorted into the House Chamber by a committee comprised of Representatives Hoyer, Clyburn, Clark (MA), Jeffries, Aguilar, Blunt Rochester, McCarthy, Cheney, Cole, Brady, Owens, Miller Meeks, and Senators Schumer, Leahy, Durbin, Stabenow, Sanders, Klobuchar, McConnell, Thune, Barrasso, Ernst, Blunt, and Scott (FL). The President's message was referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered printed (H. Doc. 117–1). **Pages H2118–23**

Senate Referral: S. 848 was held at the desk. **Page H2117**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2117.

Quorum Calls Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 6 p.m. and adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Committee Meetings

COAST GUARD READINESS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled "Coast Guard Readiness". Testimony was heard from Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Labor. Testimony was heard from Martin J. Walsh, Secretary, Department of Labor.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND AUDIT READINESS PLAN: FISCAL YEAR 2020 AUDIT RESULTS AND THE PATH FORWARD

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Department of Defense's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness Plan: Fiscal Year 2020 Audit Results and the Path Forward". Testimony was heard from the following Department of Defense officials: Douglas A. Glenn, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Wesley C. Miller, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller); Alaleh Jenkins, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Financial Management